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The Destiny of Me

Larry Kramer

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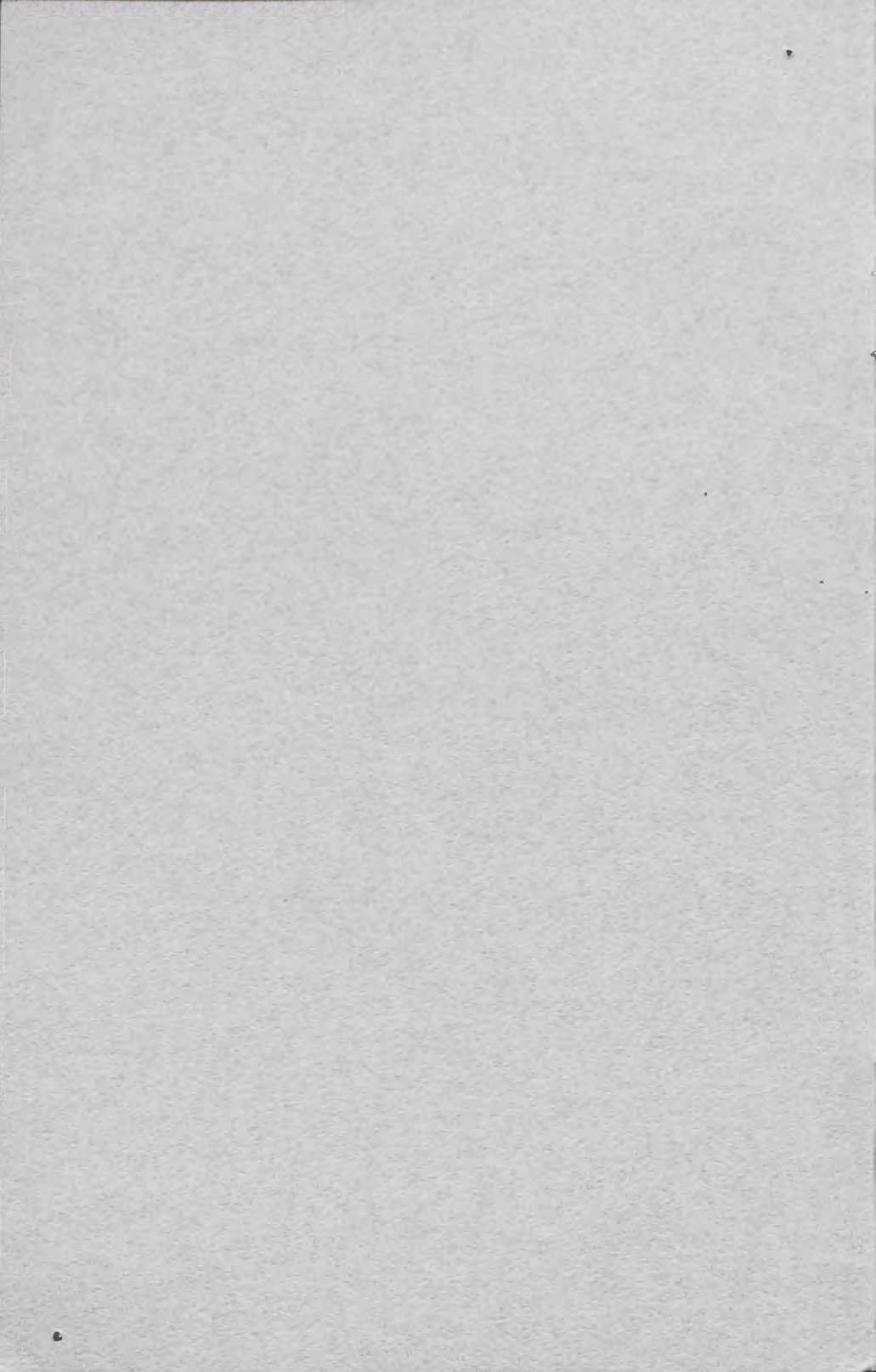
The Destiny of Life

By: Larry Kramer



Presented by The John Carroll University
Department of Communications
Kulas Auditorium • 8 p.m. • March 24, 25, 31 & April 1

For Ticket Information Call: 397-4428



John Carroll University Department of Communications
presents

THE DESTINY OF ME

**A Play in Three Acts
by Larry Kramer**

**Directed by:
JAMES F. BECK**

**March 24, 25, 31 and April 1
Kulas Auditorium, 8 p.m.**

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Long before the CDC in Atlanta officially linked this disease to sexual or bodily fluid transmission, Larry Kramer became a pariah in the gay community. He had made the link with promiscuity and called, loudly, for monogamy. By July of 1992, when 3 heterosexual hemophiliacs were diagnosed with this same mysterious disease, its name was quietly changed to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. By the end of 1982, 1544 cases reported in the U.S. and 177 in the rest of the world. By 1983, 300 had died. Today the numbers are staggering.

About the time Kramer was kicked off the board of GMHC for speaking out against promiscuity, he founded ACT-UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, as a protest group demanding action to fight AIDS. It has been the actions of groups like GMHC and ACT-UP that have spurred the government, albeit still too slowly, to action. It is also the providence of these organizations that the spread of HIV and AIDS in the gay community has been significantly slowed. The rate of incidents of HIV in heterosexuals from all walks of life is on the rise-- especially among the 18 to 25 age group who blithely consider themselves immune to this deadly virus.

This is mainly why I've chosen to present *The Destiny of Me*, to make the college age individual more aware and hopefully more careful. This is a play whose main issues are love and lovelessness, life and death. It is a play haunted by songs of love imagined but not attained, anthems for a man whose loneliness long predates his isolation imposed by illness. It is a tribute to Larry Kramer's activism which has done so much (and still there's so much left to do) against an unrelenting adversary -- both AIDS and bureaucracy. And it is an appeal for communication, love and understanding. Both personal and familial. Despite all of our differences as individuals, we all share a common need for love.

Be careful, be understanding and be kind to one another and to your children. Be safe. Be healthy. Long life. L'chaim.

-- James F. Beck, Director

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Tonight's play, *The Destiny of Me*, is essentially a sequel to Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart*. The latter play, written in 1985, is still the most widely seen AIDS drama to date. It is a play filled with rage in which Kramer attacks the complacency of the political power structure through such targets as *The New York Times*, then New York City Mayor Ed Koch and the divisive politicking of the gay community itself. That play was and is a very important play in the course of the endless struggle against AIDS.

The Destiny of Me is set a decade later and we see little progress has been made, both in fighting the AIDS virus and the political bureaucracy. It is an autobiographical play with appropriate dramatic license taken to illustrate a man's life and struggle, and path to acceptance.

Kramer's own life hardly requires dramatic licensing. He grew up in what today we would refer to as a dysfunctional family. He began his career in film and had produced his first solo venture by the age of 32. During all of those 32 years he struggled against his homosexuality, attacking it with endless psychoanalysis, trying to find a "cure." By the early 80's, Kramer was a successful writer when a strange illness which came to be known as Gay Related Immune Deficiency began afflicting men in the gay community. What no one knew then was that both heterosexual men and women in Africa and Haiti were also falling to the same mysterious illness -- and seemingly had been since the mid 1970's.

Kramer, along with a group of friends, founded the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City -- an organization dedicated to bringing dignity to these dying men who were being treated in Medieval fashion, left lying in hospital beds in their own feces, their meals slid to them across the floor so no one would have to enter their rooms.

*O you singer solitary, singing by yourself, projecting me,
O solitary me listening, never more shall I cease perpetuating you,
Never more shall I escape, never more the reverberations,
Never more the cries of unsatisfied love be absent from me,
Never again leave me to be the peaceful child I was before what
there in the night,
By the sea under the yellow and sagging moon,
The messenger there arous'd, the fire, the sweet hell within,
The unknown want, the destiny of me.*

-- Walt Whitman
from "Out of the Cradle Gently Rocking"

CAST

Ned Weeks
Nurse Hanniman
Dr. Anthony Della Vida
Alexander Weeks
Richard Weeks
Rena Weeks
Benjamin Weeks

Travis P. Lattimore
Trishalana Kopaitich
Rick Wilson
Benjamin A. Kuhlman
Joseph M. Guay*
Carrie Lichtman*
Johnathon Kovatch

Nurses

Samantha D'Angelo*
Giselle Hamway

The main action of the play occurs in the National Institute of Health, Washington D.C. The time is the present.

There will be two ten minute intermissions.

*ALPHA PSI OMEGA

Alpha Psi Omega (ΑΨΩ) is the national theatre honorary fraternity. Members of Alpha Psi Omega are committed to the production of quality collegiate theatre throughout the United States. The Mu Theta cast of Alpha Psi Omega is chartered at John Carroll University, and its members serve the local communities in their production of theatre. Induction eligibility into the fraternity is determined by participation in theatre.

Benjamin A. Kuhlman (Alexander Weeks) is a freshman who is double majoring in biology and English and making his second appearance on the John Carroll stage. He was last seen in the fall playing Philly Cullen in *The Playboy of the Western World*. Ben also participates in the Little Theatre Society, pep band and jazz band.

Travis P. Lattimore (Ned Weeks) is a junior biology major, communications minor from Pittsburgh, PA. He has been seen on the John Carroll stage as The King in *Big River* and as Leon in *The Wake of Jamey Foster*. In his free time Travis can be found playing volleyball with the JCU men's volleyball team. He plans on spending yet another summer working at Sea World with the sharks.

Carrie Lichtman (Rena Weeks) is a senior communications major from Mayfield Heights who was last seen on the JCU stage as Katty Foster in *The Wake of Jamey Foster*. Carrie played Marlene Raleigh in *Could Angels Be Blessed* and performed in *Big River*. She has also performed in *Guys and Dolls* and *Pippin* at area community theatre. Carrie sings regularly in a band and hopes to pursue a graduate degree in acting after graduation.

Rick Wilson (Dr. Anthony Della Vida) is a senior communications major who was last seen on the JCU stage as the doctor in *Big River*. He worked backstage as Assistant Stage Manager for *The Wake of Jamey Foster* and recently Stage Managed *The Playboy of the Western World*. Rick would like all the friends of Dorothy to know he'll meet them "somewhere over the rainbow."

PLEASE NOTE

We ask that patrons refrain from eating, drinking or smoking in Kulac Auditorium. Taking of flash pictures during the production is prohibited, as it is distracting and potentially dangerous to the actors.

THE CAST

Samantha D'Angelo (Nurse) is a sophomore English and communications double major who played Honor Blake in *The Playboy of the Western World* last fall. Samantha also performed in *Hold the Script* and assisted with *Speed-The-Plow* and *The Runner Stumbles*. When not working in the theatre, she is a deejay for John Carroll's own WUJC. She would like to dedicate her performance to Bob and Neil.

Joseph M. Guay (Richard Weeks) is a senior from Pittsburgh who made his directorial debut last month with *The Runner Stumbles* in JCU's Marinello Little Theatre. Joe's past roles include Christy Mahon in *The Playboy of the Western World*, Wayne Foster in *The Wake of Jamey Foster*, The Duke in *Big River*, and Sir Justice Wargrave in *Ten Little Indians*. He hopes somehow to continue exploring the magic of theatre in the future.

Giselle Hamway (Nurse) is currently a sophomore majoring in accounting. Hailing from Solon, Ohio, Giselle has performed in various high school plays, including *Grease*. She was last seen singing and dancing on JCU's stage in *Big River*.

Trishalana Kopaitich (Nurse Hanniman) is a sophomore English major who played Pegeen Mike in *The Playboy of the Western World* this past fall at John Carroll. She has also appeared in *Rumors* at Rabbit Run Theatre and *Talking With...* at Lakeland Community College. She dedicates this performance to her late great-grandmother.

Johnathon Kovatch (Benjamin Weeks) is a junior who appeared as the sarcastic prison guard Amos in the infamous *The Runner Stumbles* earlier this semester. He dedicates his performance to Abba, the Ole Cowhand, SBM, ESP, Gfell, and the "damn" *Runner Stumbles* cast.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	James F. Beck*
Assistant Director	Tricia Rae-Sanok*
Stage Manager	James E. Parker*
Scenic/Lighting Designer	James F. Beck*
Costume/ Hair / Make-up Designer	Gina Gornik
Light Board Operator	Tom Artale
Sound Operator	Arn Howald*
Running Crew Head	L. David Erste
Running Crew	Beth Beer, Annie Collins, Ionna Giatis, Ken Panzarella, Molly Pavolino, Gretchen Pfeiffer, Kevin Reilly, John Sanok*, Bill Sindelar
Construction Crew	Tom Artale, Dan Bansley, Suzi Combaj, Melissa Camouse, Jennifer Daugherty, Joseph Kilbane, Adam Meidenbauer, Jeff Mese, Joel Minik, Ken Panzarella, Pavalino Peters, Ian Schoem, Melissa Somrack, Sean Wyrick
Lighting Crew	Tom Kaspar, Mary Grant
Dresser	Rebecca Biddiscombe*
Property Master	Clark Taylor
Publicity	Rick Wilson
House Manager	Melissa Tilk*
Box Office Manager	Neil P. Ryan*
Program	Joseph Kilbane, Melissa Somrack Joseph M. Guay*
	Elizabeth McDonald,
	Mary Anne Soltis
Video Graphics	Douglas R. Bruce
Graphic	John Yasenosky

PRODUCTION STAFF

James F. Beck (Director / Scenic and Lighting Designer) received his B.A. from Hiram College and his Master of Fine Arts in Production Design and Technology from Ohio University. Jim currently serves as both faculty member and Technical Director at John Carroll University. Since coming to JCU four years ago, Jim has directed and designed *The Crucible*, *Baby, Could Angels Be Blessed* and *Big River*, and designed sets for *Holiday*, *The Nerd*, *The Eighth Order*, *Ten Little Indians*, *The Diviners*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Wake of Jamey Foster*, *The Playboy of the Western World* and *The Day They Shot John Lennon*. He also designed three plays in a joint venture with Misery Loves Company at JCU.

Tricia Rae-Sanok (Assistant Director) is a '93 graduate of John Carroll. After a 2-year career in the riveting world of telecommunications, she now happily sells coffee for a living. She is thrilled to be a part of this timely production and to see it performed at JCU.

James E. Parker (Stage Manager) is a '93 grad and recipient of the Alpha Psi Omega Outstanding Achievement in Theatre award. He has numerous credits here at John Carroll including: directing *The Diviners*, lighting design for *The Nerd*, *On Tidy Endings*, *Ten Little Indians*, *Big River* and Misery Loves Company's production of *Camille*, set design and lighting design for *Speed-the-Plow* and *The Runner Stumbles*, and sound design for *The Wake of Jamey Foster*. He also designed lights and video production for *The Day They Shot John Lennon* last semester.

Gina Gornik (Costume Designer) is a costume design major at Kent State University who will graduate this May. She's designed costumes for summer productions at KSU including *Machinel* and last fall's musical, *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Gina has also worked at Porthouse Theatre and done hair and make-up for commercials. She plans to pursue a career costuming for TV and film.

SPECIAL THANKS

Dr. Douglas Bruce
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Bob Hoffman of General Medical
Laura Ink of General Medical
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